



## H.R. 2352 – SCHOOL SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS ACT OF 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2352 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Steven Rothman (D-NJ) on May 16, 2007. The House Committee on the Judiciary approved the bill, as amended, by voice vote on June 11, 2008.

H.R. 2352 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 2352 directs the Secretary of Education and the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to establish an interagency task force to develop and publicize advisory school safety guidelines. These guidelines are to be published no later than year after the date of enactment.

The legislation requires all educational institutions participating in federal student aid programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to conduct an annual campus safety assessment in consultation with local law enforcement officials and develop and implement a campus emergency response plan that addresses possible emergency situations, such as natural disasters, active shooter situations, and terrorism.

H.R. 2352 allows surveillance equipment to be placed and used in public elementary and secondary schools under a matching grant program. The bill also allows grant funds to be used to establish hotlines and tip-lines so that potentially dangerous student situations may be reported. Under H.R. 2352, Federal matching share of program costs are set at 80 percent.

The bill authorizes \$50 million annually for fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

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### BACKGROUND

According to a 2005 White House report, 18.5 percent of students reported having carried a weapon over preceding thirty days. Among these students, one-third reported carrying a gun and one-third reported bringing the weapon to school.

According to the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) within the Department of Justice, most schools in need of increased surveillance programs have been unable to participate in the grant matching program, which was previously set at 50 percent non-federal grant matching. COPS estimates that increasing the Federal share of grant matching to 80 percent, as does H.R. 2352, would allow many school communities to participate in the program who were previously unable due to cost.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office did not have a cost estimate available for H.R. 6855 as of September 12, 2008.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.